(b) whether in framing it, the difficulties encountered in giving effect to previous schemes have been taken into account;

(c) whether the question of Government undertaking sinking of wells in areas where the response has not been encouraging has been considered; and

(d) whether the Government will be pleased to place the new scheme on the table of the House?

A.—(a), (b) & (d) The Government have sanctioned a new well-subsidy scheme with effect from 1st March 1947, in supersession of the earlier schemes. In framing it, the difficulties encountered in the working of the earlier schemes were taken into account. Details of the scheme were announced in a Press Note [a], dated 3rd March 1947. They are laid on the table of the House.

(c) Judging from the number of applications received, the response from the ryots to the Accelerated Scheme was not particularly good in the districts of Tanjore, Malabar, South Kanara, Kistna, Guntur, East Godavari, West Godavari, Madras, and the Ceded districts. The subsidies given under this scheme were not attractive in the Ceded districts. Larger subsidies up to a maximum of Rs. 500 are now given in the Ceded districts. Under the new scheme, it is also proposed to raise the maximum subsidy for wells to Rs. 500 in other areas where conditions similar to those in the Ceded districts exist.

The Government have decided that it is not feasible for them to undertake the sinking of wells for ryots.

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

III.—MESSAGE FROM THE ASSEMBLY.

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I have to announce to the House that the following message, dated Fort St. George, 27th March 1947, has been received by me from the Hon. Speaker, Madras Legislative Assembly :—

'In accordance with rule 94 of the Madras Assembly Rules I transmit a copy of the Madras District Municipalities and Local Boards (Amendment) Bill, 1947 (L.A. Bill No. 7 of 1947) as passed by the Assembly on the 27th March 1947 and signed by me for the concurrence of the Council.' "

IV.—DISCUSSION ON SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENTS OF EXPENDITURE FOR 1946-47.

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Discussion will now proceed on Supplementary Statements of Expenditure for 1946-47. May I know the number of intended speakers. We have to bear in mind that we have only one and a three-quarters hours before us." 11-45 a.m.

(a) Printed as Appendix III on page 519–520 infra